

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 4-7, 9-14, 16-26, 29-32, 34-39, 41-50 and 54 are pending. Claims 1, 4-7, 9-14, 26, 29-32 and 34-39 have been allowed. Please cancel claims 16-25, 41-50 and 54 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claim 12 as shown.

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An image reading apparatus, comprising:

an image sensor adapted to read an image of an original;

a document feeder adapted to feed said original to a platen;

a detector adapted to detect presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on said

platen; and

a controller adapted to notify the presence of dust and/or dirt on said platen in response to the detection of presence of dust or dirt by said detector, and clear the notification via a notification unit, and allow the read-while-feed operation when removal of dust and/or dirt on the platen is detected in a state that the read-while-feed operation is inhibited,

a document feeder for feeding an original to the platen,

wherein said controller determines that dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed in response to an opening operation of the document feeder.

Claim 2 (Canceled):

Claim 3 (Canceled):

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the a plurality of predetermined positions, said controller controls to perform the a read-while-feed operation, in which an original is read while being fed by said image sensor placed at a fixed position, at the position where no dust or dirt is detected.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller controls said detector to perform detection after a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by said image sensor placed at a fixed position.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the a plurality of predetermined positions, said controller notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen via the notification unit right after the detection.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the a plurality of predetermined positions, said controller notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen via the notification unit in advance of a reading operation of an original.

Claim 8 (Canceled):

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The image reading apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising a memory adapted to, when said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the a plurality of predetermined positions, store the position having no dust or dirt,

wherein said controller controls to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an said image sensor, and wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the a plurality of predetermined positions, said controller sets to perform the stationary reading operation.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller turns on a flag indicative of inhibition of the a read-while-feed operation upon inhibiting to inhibit the read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by said image sensor placed at a fixed position in a case where dust or dirt is detected by said detector, and turns off the flag upon allowing the read-while-feed operation.

Claim 12 (original): The image reading apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a flag determination unit for determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation,

wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while ~~moving~~ moving an image sensor,

and wherein said controller controls to perform :the stationary reading operation when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is on, and controls to perform the read-while-feed operation when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is off.

Claim 13 (original): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an operation unit adapted to designate disabling of said detector,

wherein said controller disables said detector in response to the designation by said operation unit.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a size detector adapted to detect a size of an original,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and said controller controls said detector to

perform the detection at a plurality of predetermined positions depending upon the detected size of the original.

Claim 15 (Canceled):

Claim 16 (Canceled):

Claim 17 (Canceled):

Claim 18 (Canceled):

Claim 19 (Canceled):

Claim 20 (Canceled):

Claim 21 (Canceled):

Claim 22 (Canceled):

Claim 23 (Canceled):

Claim 24 (Canceled):

Claim 25 (Canceled):

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A control method for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, comprising:

reading an image of an original;

feeding said original to a platen;

detecting presence/absence of dust and/ or dirt on [a] said platen; and

inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions;

notifying the presence of dust and/or dirt on said platen in response to the detection of presence of dust or dirt, and clearing the notification in response to an opening operation of a document feeder. via a notification unit in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions;

determining whether or not dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed in a state that the read-while feed operation is inhibited; and

allowing the read-while-feed operation when removal of dust and/or dirt on the platen is determined,

wherein the image reading apparatus comprises a document feeder for feeding an original to the platen, and it is determined that dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed in response to an opening operation of the document feeder.

Claim 27 (Canceled):

Claim 28 (Canceled):

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The control method according to claim 26 further comprising controlling, when no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the a plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the a read-while-feed operation, in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, at the position where no dust or dirt is detected.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the detection of dust and/or dirt is performed after a read-while-feed operation in which an

original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position.

Claim 31 (Original): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen is performed right after the detection.

Claim 32 (Original): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen is performed in advance of a reading operation of an original.

Claim 33 (Canceled):

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The control method according to claim 30 further comprising:

storing, when no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the a plurality of predetermined positions, the position having no dust or dirt; and

controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the image reading apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

further comprising setting, if dust or dirt is detected at all of the a plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the stationary reading operation.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The control method according to claim 26 further comprising:

turning on a flag indicative of inhibition of the a read-while-feed operation upon inhibiting to inhibit the read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position in a case where dust or dirt is detected by a detector; and

turning off the flag upon allowing the read-while-feed operation.

Claim 37 (original): The control method according to claim 36, therein the image reading apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor, further comprising:

determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation;

controlling to perform the stationary reading operation when the flag is on;
and

controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation when the flag is off.

Claim 38 (original): The control method according to claim 26, wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate skipping the detection of dust and/or dirt,

further comprising skipping the detection of dust and/or dirt in response to the designation by said operation unit.

Claim 39 (original): The control method according to claim 26 further comprising detecting a size of an original,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and the detection of dust and/or dirt is performed at a plurality of predetermined positions depending upon the detected size of the original.

Claim 40 (Canceled):

Claim 41 (Canceled):

Claim 42 (Canceled):

Claim 43 (Canceled):

Claim 44 (Canceled):

Claim 45 (Canceled):

Claim 46 (Canceled):

Claim 47 (Canceled):

Claim 48 (Canceled):

Claim 49 (Canceled):

Claim 50 (Canceled):

Claim 51 (Canceled):

Claim 52 (Canceled):

S/N 10/022,861

Docket No. 1232-4801

Claim 53 (Canceled):

Claim 54 (Canceled):